(c) if so, whether Government would open the Kolkata--Silchar route for private airliners like Air Deccan, Sahara and Jet Airways and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) No, Sir. The aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air are maintained in an airworthy condition and are safe to travel.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal Guidelines.

Upgradation of Mangalore Airport into an International Airport

4179. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for upgradation of the Mangalore Airport into an International Airport,

(b) if so, the details in this regard with allocations of funds made for the purpose;

(c) whether required land has been acquired for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the targeted date for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of air services to Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram

4180. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to withdraw the existing Air India Services to Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of proposed reduction of flights and the anticipated loss to be sustained following the decision of national carriers; and